



Major Group for
Children and Youth
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GFMD Youth Forum 2021 Outcome Documents

Thematic RT 5: Discussing Approaches to Address Irregular Migration - What Works? What Doesn't?

Priority 1: Access to services and basic needs regardless of status

Initiative Description:

One of the most pressing issues for irregular migrants accessing services is the lack of trust. Migrants may feel at risk of being reported or detained whilst accessing services provided by civil society organizations or NGOs. Authorities with the intention of reporting people need to be prevented from accessing these areas. On the contrary, authorities involved to guarantee access to services without discrimination should be praised. An example could be the project led by the Municipality of Amsterdam where authorities connected over 2500 migrants with NGOs and churches to guarantee their access to service without the fear of being deported. Another example is The SAIER – Service Center for Immigrants, Emigrants and Refugees developed by the city of Barcelona. It provides information and support about immigration, refugee status, emigration and voluntary return to all residents living in Barcelona, providing language support for those residing in the city for less than two years. It relies on a strong network of territorial organizations offering a broad range of services.

Another gap regarding access to services is the often short nature of projects: short-term projects are not the right answer to the long-lasting needs of migrants. In this case, it would help to establish partnerships between stakeholders such as NGOs, the government, and other philanthropic organizations to balance the financial, organizational, and political support to provide irregular migrants with access to basic services such as healthcare, psychosocial support, and education, especially given the pandemic.

It is fundamental to create an environment of trust, in which undocumented migrants can access services without the fear of being deported.

- As for access to healthcare, local municipalities can collaborate with doctors employed in the national health system and the private sector to provide health care support for irregular migrants to protect their local population. For example, In Kerala, a provincial state in India, a mobile medical van was set up with the financial support of a small finance bank and the van visits every labour camp of migrant workers once every week and provides health check-ups and collects swabs for covid19 testing. The beneficiaries are identified with the support of local self-government. The same partnership could be

considered for the right to an education that needs to be guaranteed to every child, regardless of their legal status.

- Legal access for irregular migrant workers – Some of the destination countries offer legal remedies for issues such as non-payment of wages and end of service benefits. Many irregular workers are either deported or repatriated without paying their salaries and wages. In line with the existing campaign on wage theft, a consortium of young legal students/advocates can be set up at the countries of origin and destination to address the issues related to non-payment of wages and dues

Location:

- 1) Germany
- 2) Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 3) Barcelona, Spain
- 4) France
- 5) Germany
- 6) Utrecht, The Netherlands

Leadership:

- 1) The partnership between NGOs and governments whereby governments help fund NGOs to fill in the gaps in access to basic services.
- 5) Schools go the extra mile to provide support through information sharing, and further inquiry on their needs in terms of housing facilities, food and clothes and their need for legal advice (GHENTS). The right to education of a child can be prioritized as seen in the example of ghents where they are catered for (civil society organisations can reach certain audiences).
- 6) SNDVU – Shelter for Undocumented Migrants Utrecht (NGOs play a crucial part as undocumented migrants trust them and can rely on them)

Opportunity:

- NGOs, the government, and other philanthropic organizations that may want to assist
- Create partnerships between associations working with undocumented migrants and the medical staff of these structures.

Stakeholder type:

- The national government and NGOs providing irregular migrants access to basic services

Request for next steps:

- To develop a partnership between relevant NGOs and the government to establish a balanced system that provides irregular migrants access to basic services, especially in light of the pandemic

Priority 2: Regular pathways

Initiative Description:

- Establish bilateral mobility schemes between Canada and Mexico or other major sending countries which allows different sectors to recruit workers from overseas for seasonal labour in order to manage temporary labour migration in a way that benefits the origin and destination country by benefiting the host country through labour, the sending country through remittances, and the migrants through skills development. Chile, for example, has created a 12-month visa for graduates of top global universities to seek work, renewable once. If they find a job, they can stay.
- Labour migrants may also be offered incentives to enter or remain in rural regions. Korea has a labour migration programme for seasonal workers in rural areas sponsored by municipalities;
- Automatic matching platforms to facilitate international recruitments may help in this regard. New Zealand runs a matching platform (SkillFinder) for people who wish to work in New Zealand. Candidates are filtered by the government and their details shared with employers or recruiters in response to vacancies. When the job matching platform is linked to the migration management and selection system, governments can assure employers that foreign-born candidates are indeed eligible for immigration.
- Women labour migration is banned by several countries based on various criteria. It often leads to trafficking and irregular movement of women for work. It adds to the vulnerability of women migrants. A campaign for equal migration rights for women can be initiated at the country level.

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| Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada |
| Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governments of Canada, Mexico, and other major sending countries |
| Opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments, businesses in multiple sectors, trade unions, and organizations advocating for migrants rights could all contribute to establishing a bilateral mobility scheme that would be beneficial to all stakeholders |
| Stakeholder type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian government Mexican government Private companies in the agricultural and other sectors that hire migrant labour |
| Request for next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the two countries and other business, stakeholders to start collaborating and negotiating a scheme that considers migrants perspectives and their well-being to ultimately establish a scheme that benefits all parties involved |

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| Priority 3: Regular pathways/access to basic services |
| Initiative Description: <p>Given the COVID-19 pandemic, irregular migrants face specific vulnerabilities and require certain protections. Certain countries have taken measures to simplify procedures for extending visas, to offer basic services to migrants regardless of status, and other measures necessary for the protection of migrants, as well as public health. These measures should be extended beyond the current pandemic both to ensure migrants' rights, protect public health, and prevent pandemics going forward.</p> <p>In Portugal, all foreigners with pending applications were granted permanent residency status for a period of time to ensure migrants have access to health care and other public services</p> <p>Even if Italy was praised for providing undocumented migrants with a temporary regularisation opportunity during this year's pandemic, the policy was designed and implemented in a way that excluded hundreds of thousands of people and was not able to reach most of the farmworkers it</p> |

For more information, visit <https://www.unmgcy.org/youth4migration>

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| <p>was supposed to benefit. As reported by Human Rights Watch, "overall, 220,000 people applied under the program, just under a third of the estimated 690,000 undocumented migrants in Italy." (HRW, Italy: Flawed Migrant Regularization Program, 18 December 2020, https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/18/italy-flawed-migrant-regularization-program).</p> |
| <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy |
| <p>Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italian government |
| <p>Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State governments could partner with local organisations on the ground working to assist irregular migrants during the pandemic to identify their needs and to figure out what temporary measures work, which don't and what steps need to be taken to ensure the protection of irregular migrants and maintain public health |
| <p>Stakeholder type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italian government |
| <p>Request for next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For state governments and local organisations to start holding discussions on the impacts of COVID-19 and pandemic-related decrees on irregular migrants and to identify what does not work and what does work |

| Priority 4: Regular pathways |
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| <p>Initiative Description:</p> <p>In Asia-GCC migration corridors, destination countries offer amnesty programs for irregular workers to return back to home countries without facing jail sentences or other fines by providing the opportunity for migrants to find new jobs via job fairs for amnesty applicants. However, turnout for the amnesty event itself is poor considering the number of irregular migrants. In order to increase turnout, a partnership with the diaspora/migrant organization can be established. These migrant networks could help the authorities to reach out to irregular migrant workers by disseminating the 'call for amnesty'. Setting up youth task forces in diaspora organisations to assist the amnesty programs would make them even more beneficial for both irregular migrants and governments.</p> |

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| Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India |
| Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrant/diaspora organisations Youth task forces State governments Businesses The private sector |
| Opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships between migrant organizations, youth task forces, and state governments could help to make an amnesty program effective by raising awareness and could be beneficial for both irregular migrants and governments |
| Stakeholder type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian government GCC governments Relevant migrant/diaspora organisations Private businesses in related sectors |
| Request for next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up youth task forces in diaspora organisations to raise awareness and assist in pushing for the expansion of amnesty programs |